

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-5 are in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 USC 112. Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify that the weld seam runs only around the circumference of the parts, and thus does not cover the entire surface of the connecting faces. This is shown in the drawings, in FIG. 2B and is referred to in the specification, p. 11, lines 6-10, where it states that the weld seam is either on the circumference or on the cover surface. Therefore, if the weld seam is on the circumference, it is not on the cover surface.

Applicant has also amended claim 1 to clarify that the combustion depression is formed by forging. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, at page 9, last paragraph.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over PCT WO 02/06658 in view of Seilstorfer,

and rejected claims 2-4 over these references and further in view of Rudd. Applicant respectfully traverses.

WO 02/06658 discloses a process of making a piston head by hot forging two parts previously welded together. In spite of the statement that the two part may be fixed together in any suitable way (page 2, third paragraph, line 2), it is suggested to weld the parts together over the entire surface of their connecting faces, for example by flash butt welding, diffusion bonding or friction welding.

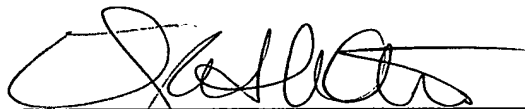
The present invention aligns the two parts in question with respect to their diameters, so that their faces form a minimal projection and parting; and closes the parting completely from the outside by producing a weld seam that runs only over the circumference. This means that it is no longer necessary to fix the two parts together over the entire surface of their connecting faces.

Seilstorfer describes connecting two parts of a piston blank by producing a weld seam. However, the two parts in question are fixed together by isostatic pressing. This process is completely different from a forging process, so that a person skilled in the art could not expect that the process according to the invention

would lead to a bubble-free as well as slag-free metallic bond between the two parts after forging. Combining the two references would not lead to the present invention, because neither reference teaches or suggests the specific welding and forging processes of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-5 are patentable over the prior art, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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